

A M E N D M E N T

Clean Version

Please amend the above-specified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please **REPLACE** the paragraph starting at page 17, line ²¹~~26~~ as follows:

yz 5/23

C1 To verify the card number, the credit card issuer's central processor first extracts the encrypted nonce C, the initialization variable IV, and account number A from the credit card number (step 902). The processor then retrieves the extracted account number from the cardholder account database 411 (step 903), and determines whether the account number is valid (step 904). If the account number is not valid, the transaction is aborted (step 905). If the account number is valid, the processor looks up the account number in the credit card transaction database 413 to determine whether the card holder has previously used the initialization variable IV (step 906). If the cardholder has done so, the transaction is aborted (step 907). If the initialization variable has not been used, the incremented initialization variable is stored in the credit card transaction database 413 (step 908).